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**From:** Huang, Judy [Huang.Judy@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/6/2021 11:30:59 PM  
**To:** George Freeman [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**CC:** Duarte, Romie [Duarte.Romie@epa.gov]; Chesnutt, John [Chesnutt.John@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Status of Palos Verdes Shelf Cleanup  
**Attachments:** Fernandez et al. 2014.pdf

Mr. Freeman:

My apologies for the late response.

My name is Judy Huang and I am the EPA project manager for the cleanup of the Palos Verdes Shelf portion of the Montrose Superfund site.

Ms. Romie Duarte kindly forwarded your email inquiry regarding Palos Verdes Shelf to me.

Montrose Operable Unit #5, Palos Verdes Shelf, is associated only with the DDTs and PCBs discharged to the ocean through the Sanitation Districts' of Los Angeles County's White Point Outfall and does not include the barrels found in the ocean identified by the Los Angeles Time article.

These barrels were found by UC Santa Barbara professor David Valentine.

According to my conversations with Professor Valentine, these waste drums were found in a permitted historical ocean industrial waste disposal site where numerous industrial facilities, including Montrose, disposed their industrial wastes in this location.

EPA is working with our State, Federal, and local partners to better understand the issues associated with historical permitted ocean disposal sites.

As to the progress of the Palos Verdes Shelf remediation, EPA continues to implement the remedial action selected in the 2009 Interim Record of Decision (<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/1118039.pdf>), which includes evaluating the efficacy of a sediment cap over contamination hot spots, implementing monitored natural recovery, and employing institutional controls to protect the public from consuming contaminated fish.

EPA conducted a pilot capping study which was published in 2002

(<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/www3/region9/superfund/pvshelf/pdf/pvs-field-study-report-2002.pdf>) to determine the feasibility of capping the contaminated sediment and a follow up study in 2011 to determine the effectiveness of the pilot cap in minimizing the moving of DDTs and PCBs from the sediment to the water column (study attached).

Unfortunately, the follow up study indicated that the pilot cap was not as effective in preventing the migration of DDTs and PCBs.

EPA published the First Monitored Natural Recovery Study in 2018 (<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100008054.pdf>) where EPA collected sediment, water column, and fish tissue to determine monitor the progress of natural degradation of PCBs and DDTs in these media. The First Monitored Natural Recovery Study concluded that DDTs and PCBs concentrations are decreasing in all media.

EPA has been implementing a variety of institutional controls since 2001, which include: outreach and education to pier anglers, ethnic communities, and health care professionals serving subsistence fishing communities to increase awareness of risks associated with consuming contaminated fish from the Palos Verdes Shelf area; market and restaurant inspections to ensure DDTs and PCBs contaminated white croaker fish from the Palos Verdes Shelf area are not reaching consumers; and establishment and the enforcement of a commercial white croaker fishing zone to ensure contaminated white croaker from the Palos Verdes Shelf area are not being commercially harvested and sold in other

areas. Our surveys and the recent Five Year Review suggest these actions have made a tremendous impact on public health protectiveness.

EPA is currently in the planning stages for a Final Feasibility Study which will update current site risk to human health and the environment and evaluate potential remediation alternatives for Palos Verdes Shelf. EPA anticipates finalizing the Final Feasibility Study in 2024.

Lastly, EPA published the Second Five Year Review Report to determine the protectiveness of the remedy selected in the 2009 Interim Record of Decision. The Second Five Year Review Report can be found here:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100018339.pdf>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions or comments.

Thank you for your interest in Palos Verdes Shelf and have a wonderful day!

Judy

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**From:** George Freeman **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

**Sent:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:20 PM

**To:** Duarte, Romie <[Duarte.Romie@epa.gov](mailto:Duarte.Romie@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Add me to the MONTROSE CHEMICAL CORP. Superfund site mailing list

Hi Ms. Duarte

I am interested in the Palos Verdes Shelf superfund site. Are there any plans to remediate Palos Verdes Shelf superfund site? According to <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acs.est.8b05859?rand=0vxkxul6&> there are 200 barrels visible. My read of <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/www3/region9/superfund/pvshelf/pdf/pvs-field-study-report-2002.pdf> is that the project was a success but measurable toxin levels were not decreased.

What about the dump site between Santa Catalina Island and Palos Verdes. I understand there may be 500,000 40gal, barrels of waste dumped there.

GEORGE FREEMAN

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